

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 12556 231939Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBSSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7040

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: DEATH OF SENATOR FRANCISCO OLIVO, PRESIDENT OF THE
CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV).

1. SENATOR FRANCISCO OLIVO, PRESIDENT OF THE CTV, LABOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF ACCION DEMOCRATIC (AD) AND COMMITTED TRADE UNIONIST, DIED SUDDENLY ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 SHORTLY AFTER HAVING LEFT THE SENATE CHAMBER COMPLAINING THAT HE FELT UNWELL. OLIVO WAS INTERRED DECEMBER 22 WITH A SIMPLE NON-RELIGIOUS CEREMONY ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, MUCH OF THE VENEZUELAN CABINET, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE CTV AND AD AND THE LEADERSHIP OF MANY OTHER POLITICAL AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN VENEZUELA. OLIVO WAS SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS OF AGE.

2. OLIVO'S DEATH, COMING LESS THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER THAT OF PETROLEUM LEADER LUIS TOVAR, EMPHASIZES THE PASSING OF THE OLD GUARD IN THE CTV. THE CHANCES OF REMAINING OLD GUARD CANDIDATES FOR THE CTV PRESIDENCY SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY JOSE VARGAS AND CTV EX-PRESIDENT JOSE GONZALEZ NAVARRO ARE IMPROVED. THE FATE OF THE OLIVO-LED CTV DELEGATION SLATED TO GO TO CUBA IN EARLY JANUARY (THE ORIGINAL DECEMBER DATES CONFLICTED WITH THE BATTLE OF AYACUCHO SESQUICENTENNIAL AND THUS HAD TO BE CHANGED) IS UNKNOWN (CARACAS 11749).

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PAGE 02 CARACA 12556 231939Z

3. OLIVO'S DEATH IN A SPECIAL SENSE IS A LOSS FOR THE UNITED

STATES. OLIVO, MORE THAN ANY OTHER VENEZUELAN TRADE UNIONIST, REMAINED ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO THE AFL-CIO FOR ITS CONSISTENT SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA, MOST ESPECIALLY THE SUBSTANTIAL AID AND COMFORT FURNISHED EXILED VENEZUELAN TRADE UNIONISTS DURING THE PEREZ JIMENEZ DICTATORSHIP. THUS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, AND MORE PARTICULARLY OF U.S. TRADE UNIONISM, HAS PASSED FROM THE VENEZUELAN SCENE.

4. IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE FROM POINT OF VIEW OF DEPARTMENT AND USIA IF AFL-CIO SHOULD ISSUE STATEMENT MOURNING OLIVO'S DEATH. THIS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY, IF ISSUED PROMPTLY, HAVE CONSIDERABLE PLAYBACK HERE.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

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